ULTIMATE

MARVEL®

TEAM-UP

ISSUE 7

DAREDEVIL®

THE PUNISHER®

SPIDER-MAN®

ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK IS BLIND, BUT HIS OTHER FOUR SENSES FUNCTION WITH SUPERHUMAN SHARPNESS. HE STALKS THE STREETS AT NIGHT, A RELENTLESS AVENGER OF JUSTICE:

DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

WHEN HIS FAMILY WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, EX-POLICE OFFICER FRANK CASTLE PUT HIS TRAINING TO USE -- WAGING A ONE MAN WAR ON CRIME... AS THE PUNISHER. THE MERE MENTION OF HIS NAME CAUSES CRIMINALS EVERYWHERE TO CRINGE IN FEAR.

THE PUNISHER

ACCIDENTALLY BITTEN BY A GENETICALLY ALTERED SPIDER, TEENAGER PETER PARKER NOW FINDS HE HAS THE PROPORTIONATE ABILITIES OF A SPIDER: STRENGTH, AGILITY, A SPIDER-LIKE SIXTH SENSE WARNING HIM OF PERSONAL DANGER. AND MOST AMAZING OF ALL — PETER CAN WALK ON WALLS AS THE AMAZING...

SPIDER-MAN

PART TWO

NICK'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL.

LOWER EAST SIDE, MANHATTAN.

WHAT?

HOW 'BOUT I *SHOW* YOU WHAT?

HEY!!

AHH! HEY!

WHAT THE $#*, MAN!!

THINK YOU'RE SO SMART?!

DO YOU?! *DO YOU?!!*

HUGYH...!

I AM A COP!!

HEY! HEY! GET OFF HIM OR I'M CALLING THE COPS!

NICK -- COME ON --

TAKE IT OUTSIDE, MAN.

COME ON.

THIS IS MY PLACE -- NICK.

TAKE IT OUTSIDE -- I CAN'T HAVE IT.

I MEAN IT, NICK -- I MEAN IT.

ALL Y'ALL CAN GO STRAIGHT TO -- STRAIGHT TO...

MAN. WE -- WE WERE JUST SITTING HERE AND -- AND I SAW ON THE T.V. THAT '*THE PUNISHER*' GUY IS ON THE LOOSE...

AND I SAID IT WAS SCARY TO HAVE A DUDE LIKE THAT OUT IN THE OPEN...

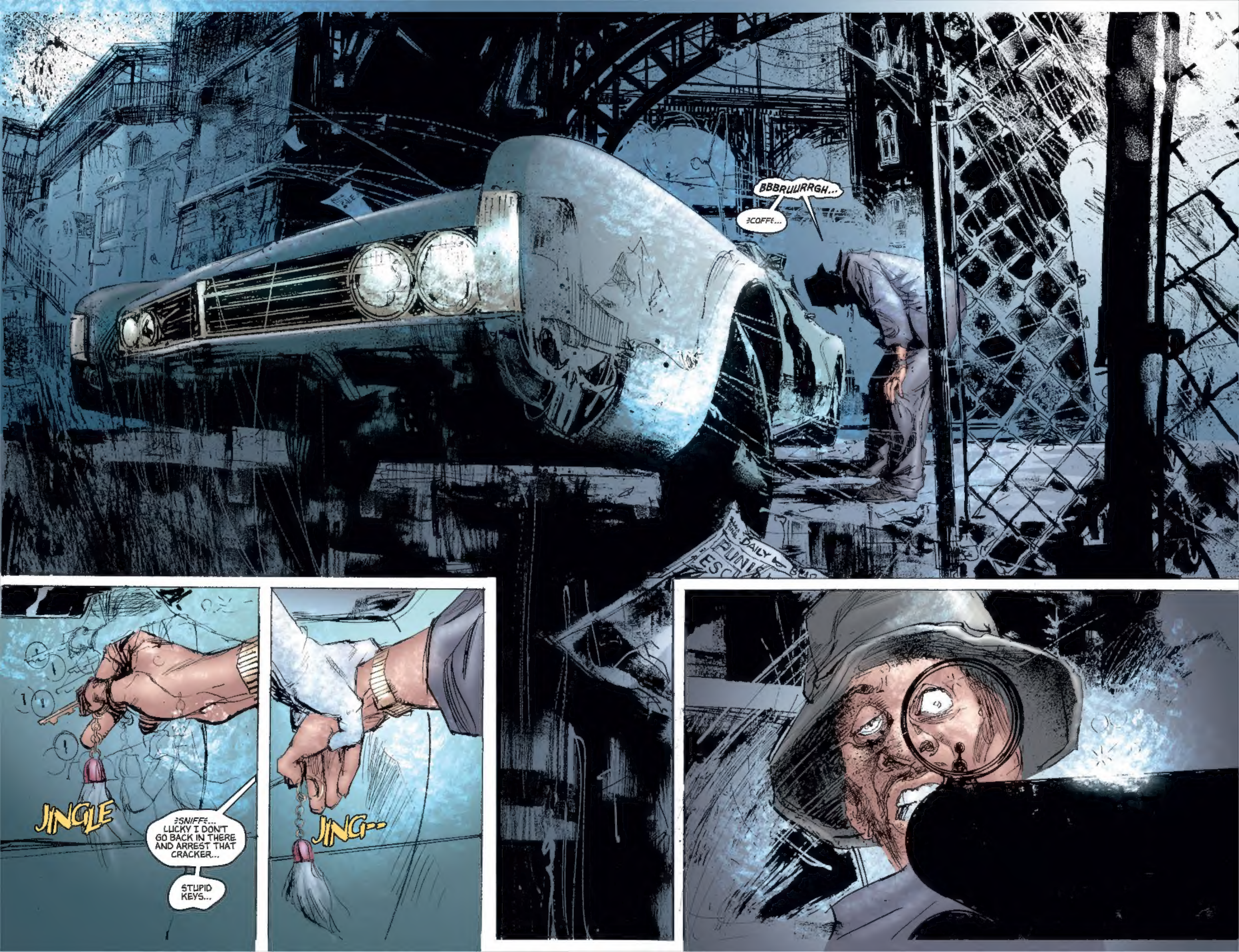
AND THEN -- AND THEN I SAID THAT ANY GUY GETTING POPPED BY A GUY LIKE THE PUNISHER HAS IT COMING TO 'IM.

AND THEN THIS @$$#*%‡ JUST FREAKED OUT AND STARTED SWINGING.

CORKY'S PUB

UGHH...

#@$$!


BBBRUURRGH...
¿COFF¿...
JINGLE
¿SNIFF¿... LUCKY I DON'T GO BACK IN THERE AND ARREST THAT CRACKER...
STUPID KEYS...
JING--

OH -- OH PLEASE --

PLEASE, FRANK.

I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO BELIEVE ME -- I-I-I --

PLEASE JUST...

NOT MY FACE.

NOT MY FACE.

FOR MY MOTHER.

NOT MY FACE.

FACE IT IS THEN.

MY NAME IS MATT MURDOCK.

I AM BLIND.

A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT TOOK MY SIGHT.

THIS IS WHAT I SEE WHEN I OPEN MY EYES.

DON'T PITY ME THOUGH. I HATE THAT.

SEE, THE SAME ACCIDENT THAT TOOK MY SIGHT ENHANCED MY OTHER SENSES TO AMAZING LEVELS.

SO, EVEN THOUGH I WILL NEVER SEE HIM THE WAY YOU DO -- I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE MAN SITTING IN FRONT OF ME.

HIS HEART IS RACING. AN UP-TEMPO RHYTHM.

IT'S HARD TO KEEP FROM TAPPING MY TOE TO IT.

HE'S BEEN SWEATING FOR HOURS.

HE SWEATS -- IT DRIES. HE SWEATS AGAIN.

HIS ROLL-ON DEODORANT (RIGHT GUARD SPORTS STICK) IS ABOUT TO BUCKLE UNDER THE PRESSURE.

THAT ON TOP OF THE GYRO SAUCE STAIN ON HIS SHIRT? THIS ISN'T A PLEASANT SMELL.

ADD THE FAINTEST TRACE OF GUNPOWDER. HIS FINGERTIPS. GUNPOWDER AND CIGARETTES.

MARLBORO LIGHTS.

THEN THERE'S THE HEAT RIGHT OFF HIS BODY. EVERYONE -- EVERYTHING HAS IT.

LET'S ME KNOW WHERE HE IS.

OOF! AND I CAN FEEL THE PERSPIRATION. THE HUMIDITY RADIATING RIGHT OFF OF HIM.

HE'S JUST AWASH WITH PANIC. DIPPED IN IT.

AND WITH MY YEARS AND YEARS OF TRAINING IN THE ARTS OF THE SAMURAI --

-- AND THE SHADOW ARTS OF THE NINJA --

-- I HAVE FOUND A WAY TO TAKE THIS INFORMATION AND PUT IT TO WORK FOR ME -- TO PUT IT ALL TOGETHER...

...TO PAINT THE PICTURE. A PICTURE OF THIS.

POLICE DETECTIVE BRUCE GREENWOOD.

HE'S A CLIENT I HELPED THROUGH THE MAZE OF AN UNFAIR CLAIM OF POLICE BRUTALITY (PLUS A COUPLE OF SMALLER PERSONAL ISSUES).

BUT HERE HE IS IN MY OFFICE. WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT. OUT OF THE BLUE. SMELLING AND SWEATING.

AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHY.

AND AS I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE TOTALLY IMMERSED IN MY OWN CLEVER THOUGHTS...

I WONDER HOW LONG I HAVE BEEN LETTING HIM SIT IN MY LAW OFFICE AND SAY NOTHING.

I THINK IT WAS ONLY A SECOND.

I HOPE.

SO, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, BRUCE?

YOU'RE MY LAWYER, RIGHT?

KAREN, IS DETECTIVE BRUCE GREENWOOD ALL PAID UP?

YES HE IS.

I AM YOUR LAWYER, BRUCE.

AND WITH THAT, I'M DONE FOR THE DAY. SEE YOU TOMORROW.

MAKING JOKES? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

AND AS MY LAWYER, WE HAVE SOME KIND OF CODE OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

CODE?

YOU KNOW -- THE CODE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT.

ISN'T THERE SOME LAW OR SOMETHING THAT SAYS IF-IF-IF-IF I TELL YOU SOMETHING IT'S JUST BETWEEN US --

THAT YOU CAN'T TELL ANYBODY.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE.

YES!! YES.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

SO IF I TELL YOU SOMETHING -- YOU CAN'T TELL ANY...

WHA --?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

DID -- DID SOMETHING ACTUALLY JUST FLY BY THE WINDOW?

WOW! THAT SPIDER-MAN GUY JUST SWUNG BY THE WINDOW.

GUY JUST SWUNG BY THE WINDOW.

THAT LITTLE IDIOT.

EVERY TIME I HEAR HIS NAME IN THE NEWS, I CRINGE.

LOVES TO MAKE SUCH A JACKASS OUT OF HIMSELF.

BRUCE, MAYBE YOU SHOULD SIT DOWN AND TRY TO FOCUS.

WHAT -- WHAT KIND OF WORLD DO WE LIVE IN WHERE A GUY JUST SWINGS BY THE WINDOW LIKE THAT

WORLD'S GONE CRAZY.

WHO IS OUT THERE?

OH GOD... OK.

DO -- *OOOH* -- DO YOU KNOW WHO FRANK CASTLE IS?

YOU MEAN, THE PUNISHER?

MAN, DON'T -- DON'T CALL HIM THAT!

IT'S SO STUPID.

"THE PUNISHER."

IT'S FRANK.

FRANK!

HIS NAME IS FRANK!

YOU KNOW HIM?

OH WAIT -- YEAH YEAH -- HE WAS A COP. A COP LIKE YOU.

YEAH -- JUST LIKE ME. WE WERE PARTNERS.

PARTNERS.

MY BEST FRIEND IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

AND HE BROKE OUT OF PRISON YESTERDAY.

DID HE COME SEE YOU?

WELL, IF --

-- IF HE DID I WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW, WOULD I?!

WHY'S THAT, BRUCE?

'CAUSE I'D BE *DEAD!*

OH GOD...

=SNIFFF...

IT ALWAYS STARTS SO SMALL.

ONE COP POCKETS A LITTLE EVIDENCE --

ANOTHER TAKES A COUPLE OF BILLS UNDER THE TABLE.

AND THEN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THE WHOLE SQUAD'S ON THE TAKE.

EVERYONE YOU KNOW -- EVERYONE IN YOUR LIFE HAS THEIR HAND IN THE COOKIE JAR.

AND -- AND -- AND IF YOU'RE A COP LIKE ME --

-- THESE PEOPLE -- THESE ARE LIKE THE ONLY PEOPLE YOU SEE, DAY IN AND DAY OUT. THIS IS YOUR EXISTENCE.

SO IT FEELS OK. LIKE IT'S JUST -- IT'S OK.

EVERYONE IS WORKIN' AN ANGLE.

BUT IT JUST GOT SO $#%%!!@@ EVIL SO FAST.

THE WORD WAS OUT THAT THIS GUY -- THIS HOOD -- *"THE OWL"* WAS HANDING OUT FREE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS.

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL IT, NOT A BRIBE -- A SCHOLARSHIP.

FREE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COPS WILLING TO GO THE EXTRA MILE TO BE FRIENDLY TO...

...YOU KNOW THIS GUY? THE OWL.

KINGPIN WANNABE -- TOTAL #@$$%!! BUT HE HAS MONEY, RIGHT?

AND ONE OF OUR LIEUTENANTS. I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD SAY HIS NAME... I --

-- OH, LIKE IT MATTERS NOW --

EVIDENCE

ARTHUR -- ARTIE JILLETTE.

ARTIE WAS THE GO-TO GUY -- THE GO BETWEEN THE PRECINCT AND THE OWL.

AND EVERYONE CAME TO ARTIE.

AND IT BECAME VERY CLEAR VERY QUICKLY -- IF YOU WEREN'T ON THE TAKE YOU WERE IN HOT TOILET WATER WITH HIM.

I GOT A KID AND I HAD THAT ACCIDENT LAST YEAR AND HEY -- ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TAKE THE MONEY.

THE ODDS OF YOU ACTUALLY HAVING TO DO ANYTHING FOR THAT MONEY ARE SO INFINITESIMAL. Y'KNOW?

AND IT GOT TO THE POINT WHERE IT'S JUST WORTH TAKING THE MONEY SO AS TO STAY ON EVERYONE'S GOOD SIDE. AND BY EVERYONE I MEAN -- ARTIE'S.

I MEAN -- EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US WAS ON THE TAKE. EVERYONE.

EXCEPT ..

EXCEPT FRANK...

YEAH, EXCEPT FRANK.

FRANK.

WELL -- IT WASN'T JUST THAT HE WOULDN'T GET WITH THE PROGRAM -- IT WAS THAT HE WAS SO SELF-RIGHTEOUS ABOUT IT.

HE WOULD STAND UP TO THEM -- NOSE TO NOSE, NOT AFRAID OF NOTHIN'.

AND -- AND THEN L.A. STARTED SNOOPIN' AROUND AND THAT'S WHEN THINGS GOT A LITTLE CRAZY.

BECAUSE SOME OF THE COPS WEREN'T JUST TAKING THE PAYMENT IN CASH. THEY WERE PARTAKING OF ILLEGALS.

AND ARTIE, MAN, HE JUST SHOOTS AND SNORTS AND SMOKES AND WHATEVER, MAN, HE'S JUST ALWAYS HOPPED AND POPPED.

AND WHEN THE L.A. STARTED SNOOPING AROUND HE GOT WAY CRAZY WITH THE PARANOID CRAZY TALK.

TOTALLY FOCUSED ON THE IDEA OF FRANK RATTING EVERYONE OUT TO L.A.

HE KEPT SCREAMING THAT WE SHOULD JUST KILL HIM -- PUT HIM OUT OF OUR MISERY.

BUT -- BUT FRANK WAS LIKE FAMILY TO ME, I COULDN'T LET FRANK WALK AROUND AND THINK HE WAS SAFE.

BECAUSE HE WASN'T.

HE WASN'T SAFE.

HE WAS IN TROUBLE.

"I CAME TO FRANK AND I TOLD HIM WHAT WAS GOING ON."

"THAT ARTIE WAS CRAZY AND PARANOID AND WANTED TO KILL HIM BEFORE HE TALKED TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

"AND FRANK JUST LOOKED AT ME AND SAID..."

TOO LATE.

WHAT?

I ALREADY TOLD I.A. EVERYTHING I KNOW.

EVERYTHING.

WHY?

W-WHY?

BECAUSE I'M SO SICK OF LIVING IN THIS WORLD OF COMPROMISE THAT MOST OF THE TIME I CAN'T EVEN BREATHE.

YOU AND YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS ARE WEAK AND SELFISH AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY DESERVE MORE.

YOUR FAMILY DESERVES MORE, BRUCE.

I KNOW YOU THINK YOU'RE PROVIDING FOR THEM, BUT YOU'RE NOT.

ONE DAY YOUR LITTLE GIRL -- YOUR OWN DAUGHTER, IS GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF MAN YOU REALLY ARE -- AND WHEN SHE DOES, SHE WILL HATE YOU.

SHE WON'T REMEMBER THE PRESENTS OR THE CLOTHES OR THE GAMES, ALL SHE'LL REMEMBER IS DADDY IS A THIEF AND A LIAR.

I HAVE A SON.

AND I WON'T LET HIM THINK THAT OF ME.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT, FRANK.

I KNOW YOU THINK I'VE BETRAYED YOU BUT I'VE SET YOU FREE.

YOU'RE GOING TO TURN YOURSELF IN WHEN THE TIME COMES --

YOU'RE GOING TO CONFESS.

AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO LOOK YOUR DAUGHTER IN THE EYE AND SHE'LL KNOW THAT HER FATHER IS REPENTANT AND GOOD.

SHE'LL KNOW THAT HER FATHER, WHEN IT ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, WAS A GOOD MAN.

AND YOU TOLD JILLETTE.

AND JILLETTE IS THE ONE THAT HAD FRANK'S FAMILY KILLED.

IT WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE HIM.

=SNIFF...=

THEY WERE ONLY SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.

THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME.

THEY HAD SOME PLANS ABOUT MAKING IT LOOK LIKE A GANGLAND SHOOTING.

COPS DRESSING UP IN THE GANG COLORS...

. BUT THEY DIDN'T FINISH THE JOB.

THEY PANICKED.

KILLED THE ENTIRE FAMILY -- BUT HIM.

EVERYONE *BUT* HIM.

AND --
AND --
AND -- AND WHEN FRANK HEALED.

HE DISAPPEARED FOR A WHILE. NO ONE COULD FIND HIM.

AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN HE RETURNS. IN THAT CRAZY GET-UP. ALL THE GUNS. *"THE PUNISHER"* GET-UP.

AND EVERYONE IN THE CITY IS LIKE -- APPLAUDING HIM. HE KILLS CRIMINALS. HE HUNTS THE HUNTERS.

EVERYONE IS LOVING HIM. BUT -- BUT I WAS JUST -- I KNEW IT WAS FRANK.

AND YOU KNOW WHY HE WENT TO JAIL, DON'T YOU?

KILLED A COP.

WELL, YOU KNOW WHO THAT WAS, RIGHT?

IT WAS DAVID.

IT WAS ONE OF JILLETTE'S GUYS.

AND -- AND -- AND LAST NIGHT I GOT THE CALL -- HE KILLED NICK.

NICK'S DEAD. NICK'S DEAD.

TWO DOWN -- TWO DOWN.

TWO TO GO.

BRUCE, YOU HAVE TO TURN YOURSELF IN.

SO --

-- SO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, RIGHT?

IT MEANS, HE KNOWS!

HE FIGURED IT OUT!

HE KNOWS WHO DID IT NOW -- AND -- MAN, HE IS COMING FOR ME.

OH MY GOD...

HE IS COMING FOR ME.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
THUMP

HATE COMING OUT LIKE THIS IN DAYLIGHT BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?

THE SUN IS SETTING.

KAREN IS ALREADY OUT ON THE STREET -- ON HER CELL PHONE. SHE'S HYSTERICAL. SHE THINKS THE WORST.

AFTER HOURS. NO ONE ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT.

JUST FRANK CASTLE.

FIRST, I SMELL THE GUNSMOKE. JUST A WISP.

THEN THE LEATHER.

THE DIRT.

HE HASN'T SHOWERED IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

HIS BREATHING IS SHALLOW -- CONTROLLED.

HIS HEART IS STRONG.

EVEN.

HE HAD A CORNED BEEF SANDWICH. THAT SEEMS SO FUNNY.

WAIT --

-- HE IS HERE.

HE'S GOOD.

BUT I KNOW HE'S STILL HERE.

HE'S TRYING TO SNEAK UP ON ME. LIKE THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE.

IF HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME, HE WOULD HAVE BY NOW.

RIGHT?

BUT THEN I HEARD THE SOUND OF THE WIND BLOWING THROUGH HIS SILENCER.

SOUNDS LIKE A FLUTE PLAYING THE A MINOR KEY. SOUNDS LIKE THE OCEAN.

BUT HIS HEART IS BETRAYING HIM. HE'S NOT GOING TO SHOOT.

HE'S NOT GOING TO SHOOT.

IT'S OKAY. I KNOW HOW TO PLAY THIS.

I LET HIM THINK HE SNUCK UP ON ME.

I LET HIM THINK HE HAS THE UPPER HAND.

FRANK --

I WANT TO HELP.